GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
SHARING OF RIVER WATER BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL
YOGI ADITYANATH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any disagreement between India and Nepal concerning sharing of river-water;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the steps taken so far to resolve the differences?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

(a), (b) & (c)

A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 398 TO BE ANSWER 20.11.2002 ON `SHARING OF RIVER WATER BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL`

There is considerable potential for co-operation between India and Nepal in the field of water resources. India and Nepal are already actively cooperating in respect of flood forecasting, prevention of inundation and construction of embankments. To mitigate the problems of floods both in Nepal and in India, India has agreed to finance the construction of embankments on four major flood prone rivers in Nepal - Lal Bakaya, Khando, Kamla and Bagmati which are under various stages of implementation. The entire gamut of India-Nepal cooperation in Water Resources is overseen by the Joint Committee on Water Resources led by the two Water Resources Secretaries. The JCWR has constituted the following sub-committees to go into specific aspects:-

- Flood Forecasting Committee
- Standing-Committee on Inundation Problems
- Sub-Committee on Embankment Construction
- Coordination Committees on Kosi and Gandak
- Joint Team of Experts for Sapta Kosi / Sun Kosi High Dam Projects.

2. A `Treaty concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River, including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project` was signed during the visit of the then Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to India in February 1996. It has since been ratified by the two sides. Under this Treaty, India and Nepal have agreed to implement the Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project as an integrated project. The work for preparation of the Detailed Project Report was commenced in December 1999. Since then, field investigations and technical surveys have been completed. Some technical issues would require to be resolved before finalising the DPR.

3. The Governments of India and Nepal have also agreed to the setting up of a Joint Project Office on the Sapta Koshi/ Sun Koshi project to work on surveys and investigations to collect data for the preparation of a DPR for the Project.